

Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes:

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman from New York, Mr. CROWLEY, for his bringing attention to an important program that deserves the support of this body. The importance of Science Technology Engineering and Math (or STEM) education has been recognized by this administration and members of Congress from both sides of the aisle. Investment in these fields will prepare our students for good paying jobs and strengthen our economy by ensuring that our workforce stays competitive in a globalized world. Entrepreneurs with specialties in these fields are creating exciting new start-ups and jobs while more established companies are being encouraged to reshore jobs in this country when our workers are better trained. In short the value of STEM education is universally understood.

Madam Chair, the gentleman's colloquy allows us the opportunity to demonstrate congressional intent to support STEM education, particularly in our Nation's Hispanic Serving Institutions. HSIs serve an important population and educate students of all backgrounds. The program directed the National Science Foundation to help create additional capacity for STEM education in these institutions of higher learning. The National Science Foundation directs investment in American innovation and is uniquely equipped to focus efforts on bringing more students into these important fields.

This amendment supports a worthy program that returns a value to our students and the economy that is well beyond the investment.

RECOGNIZING THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALPHA XI OMEGA CHAPTER OF ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC., DALLAS, TEXAS

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 29, 2014*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 85th Anniversary of the Alpha Xi Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated—the first Greek letter sorority for African-American women. The Alpha Xi Omega Chapter was established in Dallas, Texas on June 6, 1929. Since its inception, its members have provided outstanding community service throughout the City of Dallas. They have displayed a constant commitment to serving those in need through varied volunteer activities—from tutoring children, raising money to fight cancer, increasing awareness to combat AIDS, supporting research for sickle cell anemia to feeding the hungry.

Through programs of service, they encourage young men and women to develop high standards of character and excellence in education. They support a myriad of other programs, including: health and social services for women and children and the development of art, cultural and educational groups. They understand the great price of liberty—the duty of each of us to give back freely. They understand that by investing their time, energy and talent, they strengthen the very fiber of our Nation.

While my colleagues and I draft education reform legislations, we cannot be on the ground in every community: staffing after-school programs, coordinating back-to-school supply drives or organizing domestic violence seminars. Our success as a nation is, in no small part, due to the leadership and passion of citizens who are helping people lead healthier and more purposeful lives—those who focus on student achievement to foster innovation and creativity. The Alpha Xi Omega Chapter has improved the social stature of Dallas' youth by cultivating and encouraging high scholastic and ethical standards. Because of their work, the next generation of leaders is energized to innovate and move the country forward.

Mr. Speaker, I have been a Member of this organization for more than 40 years, and I can say with great pride that the City of Dallas is a better place because of the dedicated and selfless service of the distinguished women of The Alpha Xi Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. Their unparalleled and unprecedented community involvement will impact the Dallas community for years to come. They epitomize the power of an engaged citizenry and reflect our nation's great tradition of service. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing their service today in the U.S. House of Representatives.

RECOGNITION OF THE 96TH ANNIVERSARY OF REPUBLIC DAY IN AZERBAIJAN

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 29, 2014*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 96th anniversary of Republic Day in Azerbaijan on May 28. Azerbaijan is a secular, modern, Muslim country, which practices broad religious tolerance. Established in May 28, 1918, the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic was the first republic in any majority-Muslim country. In 1920 Russia occupied Azerbaijan and several Azeris lost their lives fighting for their independence. After years of living under Soviet rule, Azerbaijan reclaimed its independence in 1991 following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Over the last twenty-three years, the Republic of Azerbaijan has strengthened its sovereignty and independence, and has developed into one of the fastest growing economies in the region. Azerbaijan is also a staunch ally and strategic partner of the United States in the decisively important Caspian region. As a valuable international ally, Azerbaijan provided aid to the United States directly following the devastating events of 9/11, assisting the United States on matters of international security.

Azerbaijan resides in one of the world's most dangerous neighborhoods, with Russia to the north and Iran to the south; however, the U.S. and Azerbaijan have developed a steadfast relationship through the opening of Caspian energy sources for development. Making significant contributions to the energy security of Europe, Turkey, and Israel, Azerbaijan has materialized as a fundamental player in global energy security.

Again, it is my pleasure to honor the Republic of Azerbaijan on the occasion of the 96th

anniversary of the Republic Day, and to distinguish the many achievements of Azerbaijan along with the remarkably valuable partnership between the United States and Azerbaijan.

CONGRATULATING THE HONOREES OF THE ELLSWORTH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

**HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 29, 2014*

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the honorees of the Ellsworth Chamber of Commerce's Annual Awards Dinner. The Ellsworth Chamber of Commerce serves the people and business communities of the region, working hard to strengthen economic opportunity throughout the area and the state.

Each year, the Ellsworth Chamber of Commerce recognizes local businesses, business leaders, and individuals who promote and advance a vital and healthy business environment. These individuals and businesses are committed to strengthening opportunity, prosperity, and community service in Maine.

The 2014 award winners are: Merrill Enterprises, Top Drawer Award; Eleanor Jones, Citizen of the Year; Friends and Family, Customer Service Award; Shinbashi, Revitalization Award; and Z Photography, Chamber New Business of the Year.

These recipients are among the best that Maine has to offer. Through their leadership and their incredible commitment to their communities and to the region, Maine is a better place in which to live and do business.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in congratulating the Ellsworth Chamber of Commerce and the award recipients on their outstanding service and achievements.

CONFERENCE REPORT WATER RESOURCES REFORM AND DEVELOPMENT ACT (H.R. 3080)

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 29, 2014*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted in support of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (H.R. 3080) Conference Report. Unfortunately, I attended the funeral for a family member and missed the vote.

The Water Resources Reform and Development Act authorizes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' mission, ensuring our nation's waterways have the resources to improve infrastructure and create jobs while providing flood protection and environmental restoration. Long overdue, the conference report to H.R. 3080 will ensure economic growth for years to come.

I'm pleased that the conference report includes my language addressing the threat of Asian carp in the Upper Mississippi and Ohio River basins and tributaries. The Fish and Wildlife Service in coordination with the Army Corps of Engineers, the National Park Service,

and the Geological Survey will lead a multi-agency preventative effort working with state and local governments. These federal agencies will provide critical technical assistance, coordination, best practices, and support to slow and eventually eliminate the threat posed by Asian carp.

I want to thank the coalition of governmental agencies, private, and non-governmental organizations that have supported my bill. Particularly, I want to thank the Upper River Services, LLC, Water Ways Council, National Wildlife Federation, and Trout Unlimited.

I look forward to working with these groups and the Administration to implement this language and to ensure that our communities have the resources and tools they need to better respond to the dangers posed by these invasive species.

IN HONOR OF OUR BRAVE  
VETERANS ON MEMORIAL DAY

**HON. AL GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 29, 2014*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, every Memorial Day, Americans come together to honor the brave individuals who have selflessly given their lives for our continued prosperity, founding ideals, and democracy. Every American is indebted to their service and should be inspired by these exemplars of courage.

The month of May is also Military Appreciation month. As we honor our fallen veterans, we must not only speak to their accomplishments, but actively reaffirm our appreciation and commitment to the veterans among us. Throughout our nation's history, veterans have contributed to the strength and resilience of our great democracy like no other group. We must express our gratitude by ensuring that they as well as their families receive the benefits they need, deserve, and have earned. Therefore, we must continue to support, assist, and hold the Department of Veterans Affairs accountable. The assistance and medical treatment the agency provides to our veterans as well as their families must always be accessible and of the highest standard.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, as we honor our veterans on this Memorial Day, I call on our entire nation to reaffirm its commitment and leave no veteran behind. This is the least a grateful nation can do.

HONORING ANNE LOUISE TAYLOR

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 29, 2014*

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional life of Ms. Anne Louise Taylor, a devoted mother, sister, friend and colleague. With her passing on March 31, 2014, we look to the outstanding quality of her life's work as a public servant.

Born on August 15, 1957 and raised in Alameda, California, Ms. Anne Taylor graduated from Alameda High School. She went on to graduate from the University of Maryland

Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science.

After completing her studies, Ms. Taylor began her career in the political arena working for California State Assemblymember and California Board of Equalization Member Johan Klehs. She later served as the District Director for former California State Assemblymember Ellen Corbett and as the head of Government Relations for California State University, East Bay.

In addition to Ms. Taylor's work in public office, she worked closely with many non-profits and community groups. At the East Bay Community Foundation, Ms. Taylor helped simplify the process for submitting grants by developing a "one-stop" shop website for non-profit organizations. This website has garnered recognition and won awards, and it remains a shining example of government and non-profit collaboration. Ms. Taylor also had an extensive nonprofit fundraising background, having worked for the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

Moreover, Ms. Taylor was an advocate in the community and nation on women's health issues. She worked with the National American Red Cross, raising more than \$6 million for the "Help Can't Wait" program. She was also named the American Red Cross Community Service Hero for her efforts to educate women about the risks of heart disease. Ms. Taylor actively volunteered for the American Heart Association and the Mended Hearts Organization.

Ms. Anne Taylor served as District Director in my Oakland office for over five years, coordinating district outreach, including town hall meetings, forums, community events and workshops. Ms. Taylor was the lead staff member on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and worked tirelessly to secure more than \$1.9 billion in Stimulus funds for the district.

Ms. Taylor's contributions to the residents of the East Bay were enormous. With true compassion and commitment, she touched the lives of thousands of people. Not only was she a true public servant and phenomenal woman, she was deeply passionate about her community, Alameda, where she loved the 4th of July parade and the Alameda Point Antique fair.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District salutes and honors an outstanding individual and dedicated public servant, Ms. Anne Taylor. Her invaluable service to improving the lives of the underrepresented and underserved will live on in the endless legacy of her life's work. I offer my sincerest condolences to her many loved ones, friends and colleagues she touched over the course of her incredible life. May her soul rest in peace.

COMMENDING THE DANVILLE-  
SYCAMORE VALLEY ROTARY CLUB

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 29, 2014*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and invite my colleagues to join me in commending the members of the Danville-Sycamore Valley Rotary Club for their longstanding, strong support of K-12 Education in the 11th Congressional District in

California. Living out the Rotarian motto of "Service Before Self", these men and women have marshalled their resources to reward outstanding students, teachers and administrators in local schools for the past 22 years.

Every month during the school year, the Rotarians highlight one K-12 school in the community. Each teacher and student, chosen by their principal, is recognized publicly with their family and colleagues in attendance. Without exception, the awardees are dedicated to their academic work and to community service in and out of the school setting.

Over the past two years, it has been my pleasure to participate in special celebrations recognizing the individual achievements of students and teachers from 11 Danville schools.

From Creekside Elementary School, the Rotarians honored students Mackenzie Michel and Griffin Snyder and teachers Kristen Berg and Nancy Rugani. From Hidden Hills Elementary they honored student Lohith Dasari and teacher Sherri Wright. From John Baldwin Elementary they honored students Lauren Batza and James Goldberg and teachers Chara Rodrigues and Dawn-Monique Elkin. From Tassajara Hills Elementary they honored students Kayla Sapir and Lauren Spain and teachers Sia Yfantis and Jeanie Small. From Dougherty Valley High they honored students Seunghwa Madeleine Han and Nicole Giles and teachers Megan Keefer and Duane Ingram. From Del Amigo High School they honored students Josh Gorski and Cole Ortiz and teachers Bill Collins and Carole Edwards Van Muijen. From Diablo Vista Middle School they honored student Anya Nutakki and teacher Janet Darrimon. From Charlotte Wood Middle School they honored student Connor Kay and teacher Kathleen Martins. From Coyote Creek Elementary they honored student Ashmit Gaba and teacher Stephanie Preston. And from Greenbrook Elementary School, they honored student Robert Corritone and teacher Kristen McDevitt. In addition to these outstanding students and teachers, the Danville-Sycamore Valley Rotarians honored members of the school district administration Chris Williams and Kirby Hoy for their outstanding work in support of K-12 education.

In recognizing the hard work of our students, teachers and administrators, we distinguish what works in education and help find ways to replicate the very best practices. I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating the students, teachers and administrators who have been honored, and in thanking the Danville-Sycamore Valley Rotarians for their exceptional dedication to education and community service.

TO HONOR NEVADA CIVIL RIGHTS  
LEADER BOB BAILEY

**HON. STEVEN A. HORSFORD**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 29, 2014*

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to honor Nevada civil rights leader Bob Bailey, who passed away on Saturday.

Bob was a tireless advocate for equality in Nevada.

In the '50s and '60s, Vegas was as segregated as the Deep South. Bob saw injustice all around him and became a staunch advocate for equality.